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Gone fishin'

Metro's off Monday for the long weekend, but find us again on Tuesday

Pilots honoured

50th anniversary celebration of Sea Kings commemorates Cold War casualties

PAGE 5

Get game

Got a new way to sink ships, colonize lands or use letters? Here's a guide to getting your game out there

PAGE 12-13

MAKING SAD

AS BREAKING BAD WRAPS UP FINAL SEASON, SHOW'S LEAD CALLS IT AN UNREPEATABLE 'PLAYGROUND'

PAGE 21



SHOUT IT OUT LOUD

Gene Simmons, left, and Paul Stanley of Kiss rock out to more than 8,000 fans at the Halifax Metro Centre on Thursday night. See metronews.ca for a slideshow of pictures from the concert. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Urgent call for blood

Reserves dwindling. Many people not keeping donation appointments

Taking an hour to donate blood this Natal Day weekend could save a life, says the organization managing Canada's blood supply.

Canadian Blood Services says more than 3,800 donations are needed in Nova Scotia by September to replenish the province's dwindling reserves.

"A lot of people are on summer vacation, they don't think about coming in to donate, or they're busy," said spokesperson Renée Horton. "The need doesn't take a vacation."

One in two Canadians is eligible to donate, but only four per cent do. And with nearly 12,000 appointments missed nationwide in June and July, it's a desperate scenario for the blood agency. More than 50,000 donations are needed throughout Canada by Labour Day.

Malorie Stoddard received nearly 50 units of blood after a car crash in 2010 and says without them, she might not be here today.

"Everyday someone needs it and everyday there are people that are giving blood," she said. "They're the unsung heroes."

Canadian Blood Services and the Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency services kicked off their local effort for the nationwide Sirens for Life campaign at the Halifax Blood Donor Clinic on Thursday.

"We're going into the Natal Day weekend and most likely there will be more traffic accidents on the road and a bigger need for blood," said Halifax Fire Chief Doug Trussler. "Unless it affects someone you know or your family, it kind of is out of mind."

CLARK JANG/FOR METRO

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Environment

No plan to raise deposit fees on bottles: Minister

The Nova Scotia government says it won't be increasing deposit fees for recyclable bottles after the Canadian Taxpayers Federation released a government document that says up to \$1.20 in new fees could be added to the cost of a 12-pack of beer.

The taxpayers group said it received a government discussion paper from an anonymous source saying the Environment Department is proposing additional fees that would see the glass deposit rise to 20 cents from 10 cents per bottle.

The refundable component would remain at five cents.

Environment Minister Sterling Belliveau says he hasn't seen the discussion paper and he insisted the government is not considering any additional recycling fees.

Belliveau later confirmed that officials in his department drafted the discussion paper to seek feedback from interested parties, but he says that doesn't mean fees are going up. He says the government has no intention of raising fees now or in the future.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Environment Minister Sterling Belliveau METRO



Tara Boutillier, left, and Danielle Harnett cool off in Sackville's Second Lake with their children on Thursday. Second Lake is part of the Sackville Lakes Provincial Park. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Nova Scotia surpasses land-protection goal

200,000 hectares. Four new parks, hundreds of reserves created as province moves towards 'monumental' new protection target



HALEY RYAN
haley.ryan@metronews.ca

Nova Scotia is adding four new provincial parks and designating dozens of new wilderness areas in a decision politicians and environmental experts are calling "monumental."

Environment Minister Sterling Belliveau said Thursday the new plan will ensure protection of 13 per cent of provincial

lands by 2015, more than the 12 per cent goal of most provinces.

"This is a tremendous day," Belliveau said during the announcement at the Museum of Natural History in Halifax. "Nova Scotia has become a national leader in land conservation. Mostly importantly, we are leaving an incredible legacy for generations to come."

The plan will protect 200,000 new hectares, create 44 new wilderness areas, four parks, 118 nature reserves and

Quoted

"It's a monumental day by any measure."

Raymond Plourde, Ecology Action Centre

expand many current reserves.

Raymond Plourde, wilderness co-ordinator with the Ecology Action Centre, said in a couple of years Nova Scotia will be just behind British Columbia's record of protecting 14 per cent of provincial lands.

"This is a significant step forward for Nova Scotia in terms of meeting commitments for conservation," he said, adding the province is "light-years" ahead of our Maritime neighbours, with protection levels around three per cent in New Brunswick and P.E.I.

Plourde said this is especially important as the world is in the greatest "extinction spasm" since the time of the dinosaurs.

Last year, 16 more names were added to the list of endangered species in the province,

bringing the total to 60.

"There is a worldwide decline in biodiversity; we know that, we feel that," Plourde said.

"This our part in the global effort to halt that decline."

Natural Resources Minister Charlie Parker said while the plan is a step forward for environmental protection, it won't affect forestry or mining opportunities.

"There's still a lot of Crown land available for other uses," Parker said.



Charlie Parker
METRO

1 NEWS

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Wolfville

Man charged after dog dies in car

Wolfville RCMP have charged a man in the death of a dog left in a hot car this month. Police were called on July 21 about a dog locked in a Volkswagen parked at Acadia University. Eyewitnesses said the dog had been there for three hours. Two passersby got the dog out, but it didn't survive. Jason Remai, 36, of Lunenburg, has been charged under the Animal Protection Act with "failure to provide the animal with reasonable protection from injurious heat or cold." **METRO**

Convention centre

Province clears way for Nova Centre construction

The province has agreed to a request from HRM to allow the convention centre developer to begin construction of underground levels while modifying the design of the rest of the complex.

The design of the Nova Centre changed after public consultation, and developer Joe Ramia must get municipal approval for the changes.

That would delay the start of construction and jeopardize bookings for



Work will continue on the Nova Centre on Argyle Street.

JEFF HARPER/METRO

2016.

The provincial Statement of Interest allows work to begin on the underground parking structure and first level of the convention centre. **METRO**

Dartmouth

Two charged after drug search

Two men are facing drug charges after a police search of a Dartmouth apartment. The integrated drug unit carried out a warrant on Mayfield Road on Wednesday and seized crack cocaine, cash and a replica handgun. Ryan James Jessop and Ryan Jack MacMichael, both 26, were arrested. Both appeared in Dartmouth provincial court Thursday, facing a charge of drug possession for the purpose of trafficking. **METRO**

Guinness World Records

Coade enters record book for meteorology career

One of the best-known names in Maritime weather forecasting is now a world-record holder.

CBC's Peter Coade has broken the Guinness world record for the longest career as a weather forecaster.

Coade's 50th anniversary was in October, and he received official acknowledgement for the longest career — 50 years, eight months and 21 days — as of



Peter Coade has entered Guinness world records as the longest-serving meteorologist.

CONTRIBUTED

June 21.

Coade, 70, said in a release that he's "thrilled" to receive the honour. **METRO**

Bells toll for fallen Sea King crews

50th anniversary.

Ceremony honoured sacrifices in 'training accidents'

Former pilot Norm Lovitt says he felt grateful Thursday to hear memorial bells toll for friends who died unsung deaths flying Sea King helicopters during the Cold War.

Lovitt, 66, came to Halifax from Tsawwassen, B.C., for a ceremony that commemorated the 50th anniversary of the aircraft and formally recognized Cold War naval aviation as a period of national historic significance.

"It's so gratifying to see that these people have been remembered as they should have been," he said. "In the day I was operating, during the Cold War, we didn't talk about it much and it wasn't really put forward much."

The first Sea Kings arrived at Canadian Forces Base Shearwater on Aug. 1,

Quoted

"To be quite honest, no, I never thought it would be a very active aircraft 50 years after it was designed. ... It's a unique aircraft."

Sergei Sikorsky, Sikorsky Aircraft Corp.

1963, and were expected to serve mainly as submarine hunters to deter the former Soviet Union from violating Canadian sovereignty.

Lovitt, a former air officer, says the Sea Kings regularly set out for missions near Norway, luring Russian ships and submarines from their ports.

"We would go on joint operations and we would challenge the Russians to come out and play with us," he recalled. "The world had never seen a helicopter this size flying off a ship so small at day or night and under

any conditions."

Ten crew members who flew Sea Kings have died as a result of crashes or mishaps. Of those deaths, five happened during training exercises.

There was little public recognition of those deaths, as they were quietly announced as "training failures," Lovitt said. "I think now we properly acknowledge the sacrifice these people made to the whole NATO effort of fighting the Cold War."

There have been failed efforts over the years to replace the Sea King. Former Liberal prime minister Jean Chrétien cancelled a program to buy 43 new helicopters in 1993, forcing the choppers to be refitted for new roles in Somalia and the first Gulf War.

More recently, there have been delays in receiving 28 CH-148 Cyclone helicopters from Sikorsky. Those aircraft were originally due in the fall of 2008.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Sea Kings take part in a flypast on Thursday in Halifax as the Canadian military formally marks the helicopter's 50 years of service. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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On the good ship CSS Acadia

New exhibit. Surveying steamship marks 100 years afloat with free tours and lore from former crew members



HALEY RYAN

haley.ryan@metronews.ca

On Aug. 5, 1913, the CSS Acadia headed out of Halifax towards the icy northern waters of Hudson's Bay.

One hundred years later, everyone is invited to step on deck and back in time for free tours of the Acadia to celebrate the 100th anniversary of her first voyage.

"It's a jewel of a ship," said Gerry Lunn, curator of exhibitions for the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, at a preview of a new exhibit honouring the "Grand Old Lady" on Thursday.

"She's the only vessel left

Spreading the word

"It's a ship that people should know more about."

Gerry Lunn, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

On the web

For more details on life aboard the Acadia, visit metronews.ca



afloat which served the Canadian Navy in both world wars. She was in harbour at the time of the Halifax Explosion," Lunn said.

Though Acadia has survived "countless adventures," including getting stuck on arctic ice and rescuing hundreds of people in a community trapped by forest fires, her main job was hydrography.

Surveyors on board updated the depths-soundings around Atlantic Canada and into the Gulf of Saint Lawrence to create nautical charts relied upon by thousands of mariners.

"You couldn't do survey work when raining, or fog, because you need to see visual things ashore," said Rod Desborough, 72, as he walked the

ship. "The bad days you were working inside in the chart room, and the good days you were out on the water."

Desborough served in 1960 and 1962 as a summer student and helped survey when he wasn't "shining brass" or scrubbing the decks.

He returned to give tours of the Acadia and volunteer with its upkeep after his retirement.

He can't say what draws him back to the Acadia, but once read a letter from a first officer that put it best.

"She was a place to serve your country, a place to work," Desborough quoted. "Above everything else, she was loved with affection by all who served and she just absorbed you into her soul."



The CSS Acadia is open for special tours this weekend as the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic celebrates the steamship's 100-year history. **HALEY RYAN/METRO**

Celebrate the 118th Natal Day with a bang



The weekend Natal Day festivities will include three fireworks displays, including the marquee event off the MacDonald Bridge on Saturday. **METRO FILE**

Halifax will celebrate its 118th Natal Day this weekend, with more than 30 events — including three fireworks displays — and free (or almost free) entertainment for residents and visitors of all ages.

"It keeps growing year after year," said Timothy Rissesco, chair of Natal Day. "We have a great program lined up."

Saturday's program at the Public Gardens includes free yoga, live music and a Mother Goose festival with crafts, games and bouncy castles for wee ones.

On Saturday evening, Joel

Plaskett Emergency will headline a free show at Alderney Landing, followed by the largest of the three fireworks shows.

"For a lot of people, the Joel Plaskett concert is going to be the highlight of the summer," said Rissesco.

Free ferry service will be available from 6 a.m. Saturday until midnight.

On Sunday, the annual MACPASS Miles race across the MacDonald Bridge will begin at 9 a.m. The Commons will be bumpin' with a barbecue at noon, gospel concerts by the African Nova Scotian Music

Association and the second fireworks show scheduled for 9:30 p.m.

The early bird will get the pancakes on Monday, starting with a free syrupy breakfast at the Hydrostone Park.

Floats, clowns and music round out the weekend events at the annual Natal Day parade, starting from Novalea Drive at 10 a.m. and ending at Sullivan's Pond. The final fireworks show will take place at Lake Banook at 9:30 p.m.

"It's going to be a pretty incredible weekend," said Rissesco. **CLARK JANG/FOR METRO**

MacDonald Bridge closures

- **Saturday, 3:30 p.m.**
Shuttle will be provided
- **Saturday, 7:30 p.m.** Closed to all traffic until fireworks cleaned up
- **Sunday, 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.**
Closed to vehicles, open to cyclists and pedestrians
- **Monday, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.**
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Cleveland kidnapper gets life in prison plus 1,000 years

'I'm not a monster. I'm sick.' Ariel Castro blames sex addiction for behaviour as court hears horrific details of women's confinement

The Cleveland, Ohio, man convicted of holding three women captive in his house for over a

decade and raping them repeatedly was sentenced Thursday to life without parole plus 1,000 years.

Ariel Castro, 53, had pleaded guilty to 937 counts including aggravated murder, kidnapping, rape and assault.

Castro apologized and told the court he's addicted to pornography, but he claimed that most of the sex with the women was consensual.

"These people are trying to

paint me as a monster," he said. "I'm not a monster. I'm sick."

A deal struck with prosecutors Friday spared him from a possible death sentence for beating and starving a pregnant victim until she miscarried.

The women disappeared separately from 2002 to 2004 when they were 14, 16 and 20 years old.

They escaped May 6 when one of them, Amanda Berry, broke out part of the door to

Castro's house and yelled to neighbours for help.

The women described horrific conditions in the home, which Castro turned into a jury-rigged prison.

"You took 11 years of my life away, and I have got it back," Michelle Knight told Castro on Thursday. "I spent 11 years in hell. Now your hell is just beginning. I will overcome all this, but you will face hell for eternity." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Ariel Castro, right, speaks during the sentencing phase as defence attorney Craig Weintraub watches Thursday in Cleveland. Castro was sentenced to life in prison plus 1,000 years. TONY DEJAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Funeral held for Toronto teen shot and killed by police

Mourners of slain teen Sammy Yatim raise their hands as his hearse pulls away following his funeral in Toronto on Thursday. The shooting of Yatim by police Saturday morning has sparked public outrage over police use of force. Donning a T-shirt bearing his photo and the words 9 Shots...? — a reference to the number of shots heard on recorded footage — Yatim's teenage sister urged mourners gathered at her brother's funeral to take action to ensure his death is the last of its kind. "He wasn't the first to die this way but hopefully he can be the last," she said. **FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Brazeau

RCMP: Senator broke law filing inappropriate expenses

The RCMP are alleging after a preliminary investigation that Sen. Patrick Brazeau broke the law by filing inappropriate Senate expense claims, according to documents released Thursday.

RCMP Corp. Greg Horton said in a sworn affidavit the Mounties' investigation so far shows that Brazeau did not live in a house he claimed as his primary residence in Maniwaki, Que.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Italy

Berlusconi's tax-fraud conviction, sentence upheld

Italy's former premier Silvio Berlusconi was definitively convicted of tax fraud and sentenced to four years in prison Thursday by the nation's highest court. The tensely awaited decision was described as a historical moment by opposition politicians and puts fresh pressure on Premier Enrico Letta's fragile coalition government.

He needs the support of Berlusconi supporters and his own party to push through reforms to get Italy out of recession.

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NSA leaker. Snowden walks free into Russia

Defying the U.S., Russia granted Edward Snowden temporary asylum on Thursday, allowing the National Security Agency leaker to slip out of the Moscow airport, where he's been holed up for weeks in hopes of evading espionage charges back home.

Snowden now has plenty of room to roam and continue the bizarre journey that has stretched across half the planet — from Hawaii to Hong Kong to the Russian capital.

Russia appears to have reck-

oned ending Snowden's airport limbo was worth intensifying a political standoff with the U.S. The White House warned the decision could derail an upcoming summit between the countries' leaders.

The move places a significant strain on already corroded relations with Washington. Putin has been increasingly resentful of U.S. criticism and "meddling." The decision gives Russia cover to depict itself as a defender of human rights.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jamaica

Probe the killing of cross-dresser: Group

A New York-based human-rights group is calling for Jamaican police to conduct a full investigation into the mob killing of a teenage cross-dresser.

Gay advocates say Dwayne Jones was found dead on July 22 near Montego Bay after being attacked by a crowd

while attending a dance party in women's clothing. The 16-year-old was stabbed multiple times and shot once.

Human Rights Watch said Thursday that authorities need to send an "unequivocal message that there will be zero tolerance for violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people."

Jamaican anti-sodomy laws ban anal sex.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anti-gay law to apply at Olympics: Minister



An Israeli youth holds a sign criticizing Russian President Vladimir Putin as she participates in the gay pride parade in Jerusalem, Thursday. Russia will enforce a new law cracking down on gay-rights activism during the Olympics next year, the country's sports minister said Thursday. SEBASTIAN SCHEINER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia. Activism could earn foreigners fines up to 100,000 rubles, 15 days in prison, deportation and denial of re-entry

Russia will enforce a new law cracking down on gay-rights activism when it hosts the 2014 Olympics in Sochi, the country's sports minister said Thursday, appearing to contradict assurances to the contrary from the International Olympic Committee.

Russia's contentious law

Canada's response

"It is an incitement to intolerance, which breeds hate. And intolerance and hate breed violence."

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird

was signed by President Vladimir Putin in late June, imposing fines on individuals accused of spreading "propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations" to minors, and even proposing penalties for those who express these views online or in the news media. Gay-pride rallies also are banned.

"An athlete of nontraditional sexual orientation isn't banned from coming to Sochi," Vitaly Mutko said in an interview with R-Sport, a state sports newswire. "But if he goes out into the streets and starts to propagandize, then of course he will be held accountable."

Mutko emphasized that the law wasn't designed to punish anyone for being gay or lesbian. But, Mutko said, athletes would be punished for propaganda, a word that remains ambiguous under the new law.

Athletes have made individual gestures and called for protests, such as a pride parade, to be held during the Games.

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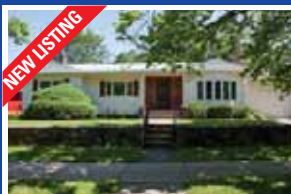
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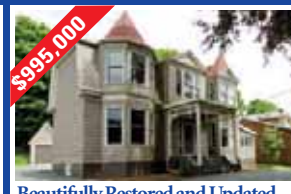
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Sweet Little Bungalow, the Perfect Starter Home Lower Sackville Nested in a park like setting, offering privacy as well as convenience. Great home for a couple or young family. 54 Hillside Avenue. Call Jan 471-0037.



Built for a Relaxed, Waterside Lifestyle Lakefront Glen Arbour, private oasis, features triple car garage, gourmet kitchen and 2 Glen Arbour golf privileges. 429 Sandy Run. Call Sandra 830-4545.



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Perfectly Maintained and Upgraded West End, open, cozy, bright bungalow features warm, neutral tones and modern décor. In the Tupper school district. 6620 First Street. \$449,000. Call Sandra 830-4545.



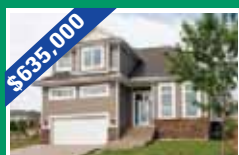
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Peter Cody-Cox
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Michael Walling
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Jan Malone
471-0037



Cindy Dyer
802-1978



Matthew Dauphinee
877-2075



Hundreds participate in a free yoga session in Vancouver this week. A Southern California school district has accepted a \$1.4-million US grant to expand a student yoga program that sparked religious complaints. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Controversial yoga program gets \$1.4M to stretch classes

Lawsuit. Couple that opposed the classes sued school district but a judge ruled against them last month

A Southern California school district has accepted a \$1.4-million US grant to expand a student yoga program

that sparked religious complaints and a lawsuit.

Trustees of the Encinitas Union School District voted Wednesday to accept the grant from the Sonima Foundation to expand teaching at its nine campuses.

The foundation, formerly known as the Jois Foundation, is the same non-profit group that initially funded the yoga fitness program for

the San Diego County beach community.

The program made national headlines after some parents argued it violated their religious freedom and promoted non-Christian religion, citing yoga's roots in Eastern religions.

The school district said the program as taught was secular.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crime pays. Sales double for Rolling Stone's Boston bombing suspect issue

The issue of Rolling Stone magazine with Boston bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev on the cover has sold nearly twice as many copies as an average issue.

That's according to Adweek, which says people bought more than 13,000 copies of the issue at more than 1,400 retailers from July 19 to 29. That's more than double the magazine's average sales for previous years.

Some retailers said they

would not sell the issue after a public outcry over the cover, which critics said glamorized Tsarnaev.

The 19-year-old has pleaded not guilty in the deadly bombing of the most famous U.S. marathon.

Rolling Stone says the story was part of its "long-standing commitment to serious and thoughtful coverage of the most important political and cultural issues of our day." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Rolling Stone magazine's August 2013 issue with Boston bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev on the cover. MICHAEL THURSTON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Obscene doodle

BBC red-faced over royal gaffe

The BBC has apologized for accidentally broadcasting a picture of Prince William after eagle-eyed viewers caught a glimpse of a picture of the prince with a penis drawn on his head on Thursday.

The image flashed up during a video for a song titled I Could Have Married Kate by comedy singing group Barbershopera.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mysteries of the sea

Google ship to study 'dead zone'

A \$60-million US research ship funded by a Google executive was to set sail Thursday to study a "dead zone" in the Pacific Ocean. The Falkor carries an unmanned submarine that will dive deep off Vancouver Island to study an area where sea life dies each year from a periodic lack of oxygen, called hypoxia. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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A child demonstrates how raw shrimp and an egg can be fried in a pan on a manhole cover on Wednesday in Jinan, in east China's Shandong province.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hot temper

Violence linked to weather: Study

A massive new study finds that aggressive acts like committing violent crimes and waging war become more likely with each added degree. They found a common thread over centuries: Extreme weather — very hot or dry — means more violence.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Public shaming

Facebook shaming after dine and dash

A Nevada brewpub irked that a patron left without paying his \$100 tab turned to Facebook earlier this week to publicly shame him.

The Brewer's Cabinet in Reno posted a picture of smiling patron Saul Zelaznog on Tuesday, urging users to remind him to pay up and warning other businesses

to watch out for future freeloaders.

The post had more than 600 shares on Facebook by Thursday.

Chris Kahl, a co-owner of the Brewer's Cabinet, told the Reno Gazette-Journal he contacted police after the dine-and-dash.

"All his friends paid and left, and he was the last one," Kahl said. "The server needed to collect his money. He said he forgot his wallet."

Other restaurants and bars in the area — including Imperial, Campo and Chapel Tavern — told KRNVT-TV they believe they've also been his victims.

When contacted by the newspaper, Zelaznog — who also goes by the name Saul Gonzalez, according to public records — said he had forgotten a method of payment when he visited Tuesday, but planned to return to pay the tab. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sweltering heat wave goes down in history

Beat the heat. This is the worst scorcher some areas in China have seen in 140 years, pushing over 40 C

It's been so hot in China that people are grilling shrimp on manhole covers, eggs are hatching without incubators and a highway billboard has mysteriously caught fire by itself.

The heat wave — the worst in at least 140 years in some parts — has left dozens of people dead and pushed thermometers above 40 C in at least 40 cities and counties, mostly in

the south and east.

Authorities for the first time have declared the heat a "Level 2" weather emergency — a label normally invoked for typhoons and flooding.

Extreme heat began hitting Shanghai and several eastern and southern provinces in early July and is expected to grip much of China through mid-August.

Shanghai set its record-high temperature of 40.6 C on July 26, and Thursday's heat marked the city's 28th day above 35 C.

At least 10 people died of heat stroke in the city over the past month, including a 64-year-old Taiwanese sailor, the official Xinhua News Agency said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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PLAYTESTING

There are three stages to poking the perimeter of a game's rules to see how they can be broken.

1 Solo: The designers take the game for an early spin because "you don't want to expose people to what could end up being a mess."

2 Group: Once glaringly obvious wrinkles are ironed out, grant your fellow designers critical licence and set them loose on your creation.

3 Blind: Find some players and hand them the rule-book to figure things out.

PUBLISHING

When your blind test earns more applause than furrowed brows, the next step is weighing the pros and cons of publishing vs. self-publishing.

"With self-publishing, you get 100 per cent creative control and 100 per cent of the profits," says Cormier. "But it's an astonishing amount of work. Self-publishing designers often find themselves spending a lot more time marketing than actual designing."

With board game cafés popping up all across the country, it's getting easier to get your game on with people who love them as much as you do

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

You can play at this game across the board

DESIGNING A PROTOTYPE

Cormier warns aspiring designers not to get swept up in the romance of seeing their vision beautifully displayed on a tabletop.

"You could easily end up making dozens of prototypes on your way to a finished product," he says. "So thinking that your idea deserves to be fully rendered immediately can be time-consuming."

Cormier and partner Sen-Foong Lim's technique is cheap and easy, using widely available clip art for graphics and common objects for tokens.

"Prototypes don't get to the point where they're publicly available, so we don't run afoul of any copyright laws."

START

It all starts with an idea, of course.

"Inspiration can come a number of ways," designer Jay Cormier says. "Sometimes it's a setting. Sometimes it's a mechanic. With Belfort, I was playing a lot of Warcraft II and thought that style would make for a great board game."

Game genesis can even begin with something as simple as a name.

"Obviously, a great title can have a huge impact on a game's success. And if that happens to come first, it can help guide you."

If you spend enough time perusing Twitter bios, you're bound to come across people who list "Catan champion" alongside other accomplishments like "foodie" and "craft-beer enthusiast."

These people are among the many devotees of Settlers of Catan, a wildly popular strategy board game that's often called a "gateway drug" for people who aren't already into the hobby.

But that can't be right, can it? What are so many plugged-in people, with attention spans supposedly digitally shattered by the age of instant gratification, doing hunched over a table, whiling away the hours on something so ... so ... rustic.

"There's nothing new about people gathering to play board games," says gaming evangelist David Minken. "But it's definitely easier to find them."

The Calgary geophysicist encountered something similar when he was living in Oklahoma.

"My house was by a (Frisbee) golf course, which is something I'd never really heard of," he chuckles. "But because it was so close, I got into it. When I got back to Calgary, I found there were a bunch of courses I had no idea existed. The community was so insular."

"The same goes for board games," he adds. "You have the games you like

to play and the people you like to play them with."

But that's quickly changing with the massive popularity of board-game cafés across Canada, perhaps none more successful than Toronto's Snakes and Lattes, which has played host to packed rooms and waiting lists since opening in 2010.

"I used to get frustrated with this community," Minken says. "It needs to grow. Video games used to be similar, now they're very mainstream. These cafés are the perfect opportunity."

Inspired by cafés and a weekend spent at Fallcon, an annual confab of Catan settlers and tabletop generals for which he is now an organizer, Minken aims to bring the café experience to Calgary.

"I've ordered modular shelves I can store my games in to create a portable board-game café," he says of his pop-up-shop brainchild. "So if there's a coffee shop that happens to be slow on a Sunday, we can roll everything in there and set up."

"It's not about making money. If it's seen that way, the community will reject it. Immersive games can require multiple playthroughs with people who know the rules. That's what this is about."

It's not just the gamers who are increasingly rallying together. It's the designers, too.

Vancouver-based designer Jay Cormier, who creates games with his partner Sen-Foong Lim, is part of the Game Artisans of Canada, a designer/enthusiast group whose members swap prototypes to put rulebooks through their paces in an effort to polish nascent games to a publication-ready shine.

"Anybody who wants to create their own game is going to have a very high bar for what makes a quality board game," Cormier says. "And what most of them find after trying their first design is that they don't meet their own standard of quality."

Game Artisans members have similar standards, Cormier says, providing a collective critical eye detached from the emotional pull designs can have on their creators.

So if success can be found through strength in numbers, board-game culture in Canada is set to thrive.

"The clever thing video games did is build the learning curve into the design," Minken notes. "So by the end you're doing all kinds of things you weren't in the beginning."

Obviously, board games don't have that luxury. What they do bring to the table — literally and figuratively — is a community happy to walk you through the curve.

Now you know where to find them.

Games people play

Taking it to the next level

These are lists crowd-sourced from a bunch of enthusiasts, with a valuable assist from David Minken. The milestones were a little more dry, so I presented him with scenarios and asked him to offer suggestions. This is what we got back.

I played Catan at a friend's house and loved it. What next?

1. Ticket to Ride
2. Pandemic
3. Bohnanza

I want a fun party game that won't offend people.

1. Dixit
2. Time's Up
3. Telestrations

I want a fun party game that WILL offend people.

1. Cards against Humanity
2. A Question of Scruples
3. Crappy Birthday

I used to like playing Risk, but each game is too long.

1. El Grande
2. Small World
3. Risk 2210

What are the best card-based games?

1. 7 Wonders
2. Hanabi
3. Dominion

My kids have aged past Trouble and Sorry. What next?

1. King of Tokyo
2. Forbidden Island
3. Dexterity games like Animal Upon Animal or Pitch Car

What's a good rare or out-of-print game to browse eBay for?

1. Roads and Boats
2. Space Hulk
3. Gulo Gulo

What is the weirdest game you've ever played?

1. 1000 Blank Cards
2. Tales of the Arabian Night
3. Ugg-Tect



Toronto's Snakes and Lattes, the largest board-game café in Canada, opened to instant success in the summer of 2010. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

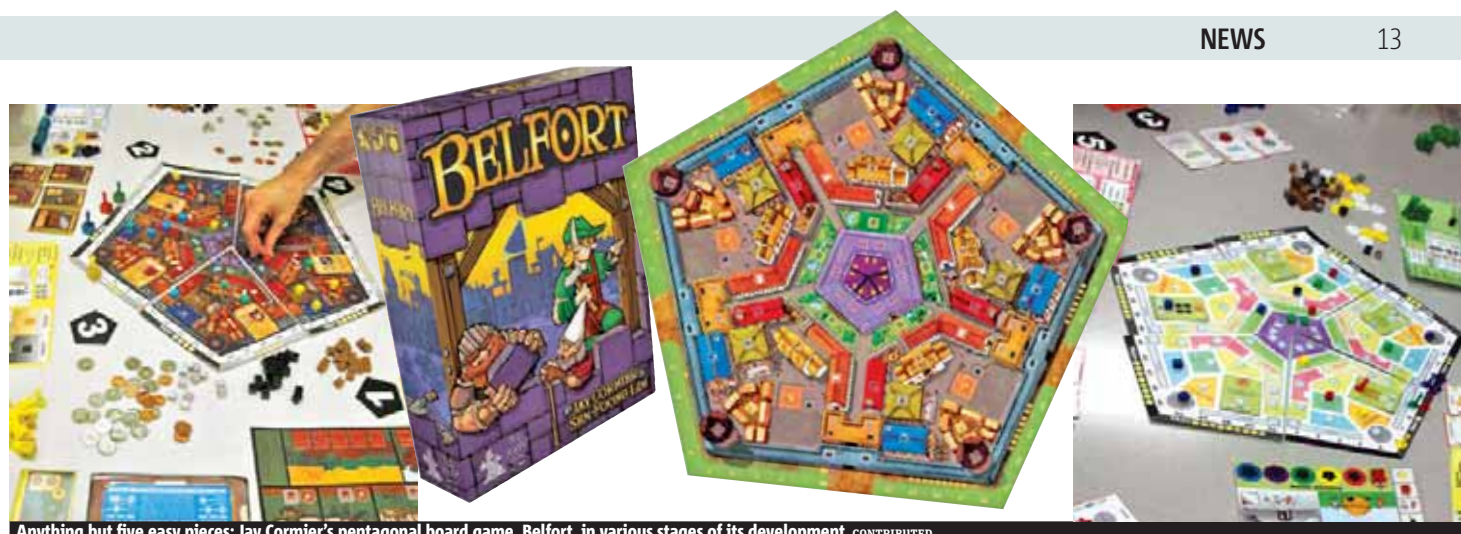
FINDING A PUBLISHER

So a publisher it is. Where do they hang out?

"The easiest thing is a cold call, whether on a publisher's website or with an email," Cormier says.

That does sound easy. "That's never worked for us."

Oh.
"The best place to pitch is at a convention. Publishers have their people onsite to play games and talk with designers. It's just a matter of registering and showing up with your bag of games and a few elevator pitches."



Anything but five easy pieces: Jay Cormier's pentagonal board game, Belfort, in various stages of its development. CONTRIBUTED

How to chute your way up the design ladder

If you've ever rallied your opponents to throw their Monopoly tax bill into the Free Parking pot, or stripped Scotland Yard's Mr. X of his black tickets, you're already on your way to becoming a board-game designer.

"Getting into game design often starts with creating house rules," says Vancouver-based designer Jay Cormier. "Finding flaws in an existing game and working to improve them."

Cormier and his partner, Sen-Foong Lim, better known in enthusi-



Jay Cormier
CONTRIBUTED

ast circles as the Bamboozle Brothers, have spent years hunched over their tabletop creations as they tinkered their way to scoring publishing deals for titles like Belfort and Train of Thought.

Cracking the whip on house rules is merely Step 1, though. Step 2 is a little more nebulous.

"Ideas for a game can come from many places," Cormier says. "With Belfort, I was playing a lot of Warcraft II and I thought that would make a great world for a board game. Sending people into the woods to work."

"Other times you think of a mechanic you'd like to try. Or, 'Wouldn't it be cool to have a board game about underwater diving?'"

The Bamboozle Brothers are both members of the Game

Artisans of Canada, a gaggle of designers and enthusiasts who work together to hone new ideas into a functional game.

According to Cormier, groups like the Game Artisans are the perfect resource for aspiring designers.

"Sending your baby to people who are just as critical can really improve a game."

ANDREW FIFIELD/METRO

GET FUNDED — HOW TO KICKSTART YOUR MILLION-DOLLAR IDEA

So you have an amazing idea for the greatest board game in history.

But there's a problem: Getting startup cash. What's the simplest way to get money? Ask people for it. It's time for Kickstarter, the world's most successful crowdfunding website. Like Indiegogo, it offers products, privileges and other thank-yous for a pledged donation.

There's big money in it. Try these figures for size: In 2012, more than \$319 million was pledged to campaigns by more than 2.2 million people. That's more than \$600 a minute. In all, 18,109 projects, from board games to books to movies, hit target.

Sounds like easy money, right? Wrong.

Luca Vince Caltabiano, of Montreal, is the creator of Carmarace, this week's leading Canadian tabletop game on Kickstarter. With 22 days to go, it's about halfway to its \$23,000 target for production costs.

"It's a board game for one to six players and everybody's playing hitchhikers trying to get to a convention," explains Caltabiano. It's card-based and includes bikes, planes and trains, cop chases, and old ladies in the road.

Caltabiano's been hyping his game like crazy, posting on every online meeting place he can think of. It's eating a lot of his time.

"I have a newfound respect for everybody who does Kickstarter," he says. "Just setting up the campaign took about a week and the (promo) video took 80 hours to produce."

But now he just needs to hit his target. That should be easy, right? Wrong again.

Plenty of crowdfunding projects just don't go anywhere. AppsBlogger.com has estimated about half of all projects don't reach their targets.

Then there are the successful failures, like The Doom that Came to Atlantic City, a board game about an invasion of monsters.

It raised more than four times its \$35,000 goal. More than 1,200 people pledged more than \$122,000 in total. But last week its Portland, Ore., creators pulled the plug, citing inexperience, technical problems and ego clashes. The "hope" is to refund everyone fully. Lots of people are angry.

But when Kickstarter's good, it's very good. Bones was a project by Reaper Miniatures of Denton, Texas, offering miniature figures for role-playing games. It had a target of \$30,000 but closed in August 2012 after raising \$3,429,235 from more than 17,000 people.

The millions are there. All you need is an idea. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO



CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Congratulations! All your hard work and convention hustle has paid off. Now it's time to get down to brass tacks and carve out your piece of the pie. You would be wise not to overlook an area that's recently become hugely important, courtesy of what's likely in your pocket right now.

"One thing that's getting more important is digital rights, especially apps," says Cormier. "We're working with (German publisher) Queen and we negotiated hard for the digital rights, because this game is particularly suited for an app."

FINISH

Enjoy the riches! Well, not quite. There are certainly success stories to be found, but many designers are hobbyists holding down day jobs to keep the wolf from the door — which isn't a bad title for a game.

"The only way to make game design an occupation is to either have a bunch of games out there or score with something evergreen," says Cormier. "A game like Settlers of Catan or Pandemic that somebody, somewhere is always buying."

But Belfort is holding its own. Cormier and Lim have deals in Germany and Poland, a third printing has been released in North America, and a Kickstarter-funded expansion is on the way.

Battle of idols

U.K. halts export of Austen ring bought by singer

The British government has stepped in to stop singer Kelly Clarkson from taking a ring once owned by author Jane Austen out of the country. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Market Minute

DOLLAR
96.64¢ (-0.71¢)

TSX
12,593.96 (+107.32)

OIL
\$107.89 US (+\$2.86)

GOLD
\$1,311.20 US (-\$1.80)

Natural gas: \$3.39 US (-6¢)
Dow Jones: 15,628.02 (+128.48)

Russian vodka boycott. Should pro-gay brand be included in global ban?

It's being poured down bar sinks around the world to protest Russia's draconian laws against the LGBT community, but Stolichnaya vodka will be served at the Kinky Pride Party in Vancouver after the city's Pride parade Sunday night.

Event organizer Reive Doig of the Noir Fetish Ball was supportive when he first heard of the boycott, originally proposed by American columnist Dan Savage to pressure Russia to change its "gay propaganda" legislation before the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

But when Doig read about Stoli's support of the LGBT community in places such as South Africa, he decided the boycott unfairly hurt a company trying to help. "Stoli has worked with the gay

community. They're trying to make a difference where they can and it just seems wrong to me," he said. "They deserve not to be tarred with the same brush."

In response to the boycott, Stoli's parent company SPI Group issued a statement pledging its "fervent" support of the LGBT community and calling the Russian government's actions "dreadful."

But many, including Vancouver Coun. Tim Stevenson, support the boycott as a first step to demand acceptance of the LGBT community from the Russian government. The organizer's decision to serve Stoli is "naive" and lacks understanding of boycotts, Stevenson said.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO IN VANCOUVER

TransCanada going ahead with Energy East pipeline

Calgary. Firm says it has enough interest from customers to greenlight 'historic' project, which would deliver oil to New Brunswick and Quebec



TransCanada CEO Russ Girling, right, and TransCanada president of energy and oil pipelines Alex Pourbaix announce the company is moving forward with the 1.1 million barrel-per-day Energy East Pipeline project at a news conference in Calgary on Thursday. **JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

TransCanada Corp. is moving ahead with a \$12-billion plan to ship western oil to Quebec and the East Coast — the largest project in the company's history and one it compares to the Canadian Pacific Railway in its economic impact for the country and trade benefits overseas.

The Calgary-based company announced Thursday there is enough interest from customers, at home and abroad, in the proposed Energy East pipeline for the project to go ahead.

Energy East would deliver up to 1.1 million barrels per day to refineries and export terminals in Quebec in late 2017 and New Brunswick one year later.

The project, which still faces regulatory hurdles, has the support of the Alberta and New Brunswick governments but it's not clear yet whether Quebec has been won over.

Critics have already vowed to fight the project, which they describe as unsafe and unlikely to deliver on job creation and

energy security promises. That position has, in part, led to repeated delays for another high-profile TransCanada project, the Keystone XL pipeline in the United States.

"This is a historic day for TransCanada and a historic day for our country," CEO Russ Girling said, likening it to "bold ventures" such as the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Trans-Canada Highway and the company's own cross-country natural gas mainline.

Energy East would involve converting a portion of TransCanada's underused natural gas mainline to ship oil 3,000 kilometres from Alberta to its terminus near the Que-

Irving Oil announcement

- Irving Oil said Thursday it planned to build a \$300-million marine export terminal in Saint John, N.B., to handle the increase. New Brunswick Premier David Alward called the project a "game changer" for his province.

bec-Vermont border.

Some 1,400 kilometres of new pipe will be built to Saint John, N.B., where crude can both feed Irving Oil's massive refinery as well as be shipped offshore. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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ESPIONAGE OK, BUT CAN'T BE GAY

1 Apocalypse sooner than you think. Researchers from the University of Victoria figure a runaway greenhouse effect will cause the Earth's oceans to boil a lot sooner than expected — as early as half a billion years from now instead of the originally projected 1.1 billion. Before you get lulled into a false sense of complacency, another study says 1,700 U.S. coastal cities will be under water by 2100. Cancel my calls!

2 A gift for his adoring fans. Justin Bieber was let loose in Toronto this week and took some time out to allegedly spit on his fans. That is, there are photos of him spitting from his hotel balcony, photos of the adoring fans down below, but no money shot. For the record: Bieber's spokesperson denies he spit on anyone on that day. Job of the week: Justin Bieber's spokesperson.



THE METRO LIST
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

3 And in other news, Justin. The leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, Justin Trudeau, decides it's time to call for the legalization of marijuana. Is this a calculated gamble to appeal to a younger generation of voters? At least he didn't spit on anyone. Expectations are getting pretty low out there.

4 What a guy. As far as Pope Francis is concerned, it's OK to be gay ("Who am I to judge?"). But there's a catch: You can't actually have gay sex. Ever. Just in case you had any ideas. And while we're at it, no female priests either. You can only take this "progressive" stuff so far, and we're all the way up to the 18th century now.

5 From Russia; where's the love? After spending a month in the Moscow airport, Edward Snowden, the guy who revealed that the U.S. National Security Agency monitors everything, all the time, was

granted temporary asylum by the Russians. Good thing he's not gay — the homophobic state would have put him in jail for a real crime.

6 Hey there, Georgie Boy. Despite all of the above, the newest heir to the British throne, George Alexander Louis, is now almost two weeks old. But it's not likely he'll ever wear the crown. Grandfather Charles is next up, then father William, but the way QE2 is going, she'll outlive them all!

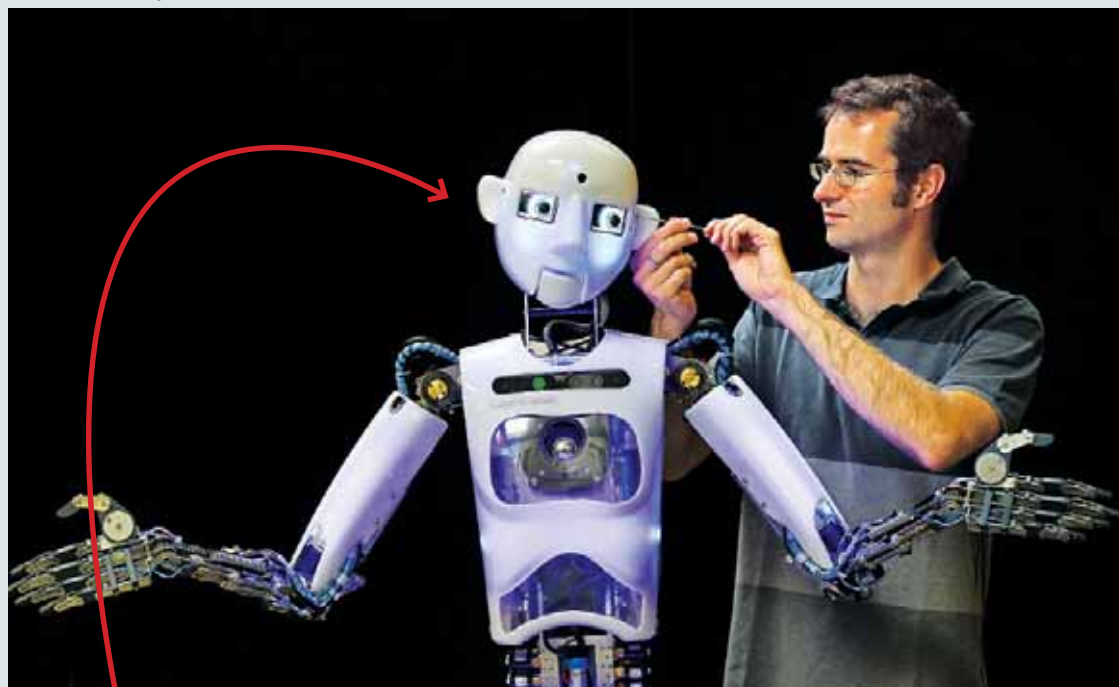
7 Fortuitous book launch. If you think dating is difficult, try this one on for size. In an effort to find the woman of his dreams, a man from Australia wrote a 99-page dating guide called *The Cock Manifesto*. Despite the title, it's not just a phallic reference, but includes everything from his dislike for "players," to explicit requests for photos of the potential girlfriend's nether regions. Carlos Danger, a.k.a. Anthony Weiner, may have met his match.

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ZOOM

Sorry, I'm afraid I can't hear that



MATT CARDY/GETTY IMAGES

Meet the android that imitates us

An engineer provides the final touches to a nearly completed RoboThespian robot at the Engineered Arts factory in the town of Penryn, England. The firm is the world's only maker of commercially available life-sized humanoid robots. The interactive android is sold worldwide to visitor

attractions and universities. The company dismissed concerns about its humanoid robots setting out to destroy humans as in *I, Robot*, the book by Isaac Asimov and the movie starring Will Smith. "Our robots are for entertainment; they don't desire to take over the world," said Gill Spencer, administrator at Engineered Arts. **METRO**

Company's viewpoint

"The robot is designed to imitate our movements and expressions. And it's multilingual, too, fluent in more than 20 languages. People are fascinated by them."

Gill Spencer, administrator at Engineered Arts

Cost and uses of bot

- \$83,600 US is how much one RoboThespian android costs, and it's for sale to the public.
- RoboThespian (meaning "robot actor") is used in live stage shows — popular in South Korea.

Clickbait

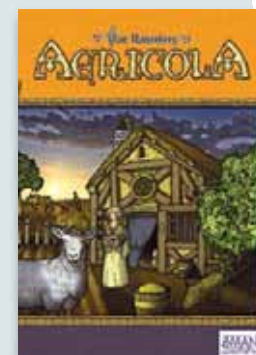


ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

In honour of today's board games feature, we're going to give a little love to board games that have gone on to second lives as mobile apps.

Ticket to Ride

Outwit and stymie your opponents as everyone rushes to claim train routes across North America. Drawing route cards adds a nice risk-reward component to the game, but nothing is as fun as derailing the best-laid plans of your opponents. (iPad/\$6.99)



Agricola

Best described as a mix between farming and family planning, *Agricola* removes the luck typically associated with board games and instead forces you to rely purely on strategy. Learning the ropes can be a little dense, but it's the game's depth that rewards the players. (iOS/\$6.99)

Scotland Yard

Take on the role of either master criminal Mr. X or the detectives tasked with chasing him through London. The board game has achieved well-deserved cult status, but the lousy AI can sometimes hold the digital version back. (iOS/\$5.99)

Letters

RE: Feds To Spend Less On Science, Tech, Finds Statistics Canada, published online July 30

The better debate is whether or not the government should spend taxpayers' money on innovation initiatives.

The government is less prudent with every dollar spent than the private sector because the government inherently assumes less risk. Failed government initiatives decrease taxpayers' standard of living because they indirectly pick up the bill.

Besides, the companies that

receive science and technology funds are based on arbitrary criteria set by policy makers.

This gives an unfair competitive advantage to certain companies in the industry. The better solution is to tax science and technology companies less rather than redistributing dollars after the fact, which is not very efficient, or provide better tax credits. Both are indiscriminate solutions.

It is best that the government get out of the innovation business before they find themselves in a gassy scandal.

Wojciech Kaperka
Scarborough, Ont.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

Send us your comments: halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Synopsis

This weekend Denzel Washington and Mark Wahlberg team up in the action comedy 2 Guns. They play a DEA agent and an undercover Naval Intelligence officer, respectively, on the run after an investigation into a drug cartel goes wrong. It's the first time the two superstars have appeared together on-screen, but both have played characters like this in the past. This week the Reel Guys are rifling through their Blu Rays, DVDs, Laser-Discs and video cassettes to uncover the best and perhaps lesser known work of the actors we like to call Washingtonberg.

Reel Guys

RICHARD
CROUSE AND
MARK BRESLIN



Denzel Washington and Mark Wahlberg both have pretty good track records when it comes to acting. CONTRIBUTED

We love Washingtonberg

Roles review. With 2 Guns hitting theatres this weekend, the Reel Guys remember their fave Denzel and Marky Mark movies

Richard: Mark, Washington has played his share of attorneys and policemen over the years, but he has never been afraid to try new things, as he did in 1993's *Much Ado About Nothing*. In this all-star adaptation of Shakespeare's most famous romantic comedy, he plays the powerful Don Pedro of Aragon. The movie took hits for its miscasting of Keanu Reeves and Michael Keaton in key roles, but

Washington was praised for his work. Do you have a favourite Denzel performance?

Mark: Richard, where to start? I've never seen a bad Denzel performance. Never. It's one thing to make Shakespeare come alive onscreen, but he can even make a turkey like *The Book of Eli* worth watching. Was he fantastic as Malcolm X? Yes. As the private eye in *Devil In A Blue Dress*? Of course. How about the plotless *Flight* from last year? He's the whole movie. A thriller like *The Taking of Pelham 1-2-3*? Nobody plays ordinary like this extraordinary actor. But if you're forcing me to name my favourite Denzel role, it would have to be as the crooked cop in *Training Day*. I just love it when good

guys play bad.

RC: He's not afraid to explore the dark side of his characters and it is not a guarantee that he will be alive by the time the end credits roll. That's a comment on an actor who brings some much welcome moral ambiguity to his roles. Similarly Wahlberg is an actor who likes to shake things up. In the last calendar year we've seen him do outrageous comedy in *Ted*, playing stupid in *Pain and Gain*, and a revenge happy ex-cop in *Broken City*. Like Washington, the only thing that connects all the performances is the actor's charisma.

MB: Y-y-y-yes, but you can't quite put them in the same league. I thought Wahlberg

was excellent in his last two movies, *Pain and Gain*, and the underrated *Broken City*. He was OK in *Ted*, but really, it's weird for an actor to get upstaged by a teddy bear. If I'm looking for a definitive Wahlberg performance, it would have to be his work in *The Departed*.

RC: *The Departed* is great and may be his best performance to date if only because he rivals Samuel L. Jackson's ability with swear words in almost every sentence.

MB: And back to *Pain and Gain*. A director should make his actors look good, but it's to Wahlberg's credit that he makes his director, Michael Bay, look good. No small achievement.

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Dane Cook on the finer points of Planes

Dissecting a kids' film. Why are there crops and passenger planes in a vehicular world, Mr. Cook?



NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Disney's new animated feature, *Planes*, extends the universe introduced in *Cars* and *Cars 2*, but in watching the film we were left with a fair number of logistical questions. So we turned to the film's star, Dane Cook, to address some of our more pressing quandaries. "I don't know if you're supposed to think about it as deeply as this," he cautioned, but he was a good sport about it anyway.

You play a cropduster in the film. Who are the crops for? That is, um ... it's for esthetics. Because (the town of) Propwash Junction, it needs



Dane Cook is the voice of Dusty Crophopper in *Planes*, which opens next week. CONTRIBUTED

to have a dynamic look to it. Those crops just make it on the fringe.

The film features some giant passenger jets. What are they doing? Who are they carrying?

Maybe there's very small planes that are travelling inside of them. Maybe there are remote-controlled planes, the little toy kind. They can't fly over the ocean, they're battery operated.

If cars and planes exist in the same world, why aren't the bigger, faster, stronger planes the dominant species and ruling over the cars?

I think planes are pretty passive, and I think they enjoy their car brethren, as we can

say. They're a peaceful mechanical piece of engineering.

The term "engine failure" comes up. Wouldn't that just mean that a plane is dead? That would probably mean that particular plane is maybe

having a cramp. I would say that sometimes when I'm jogging I say, "Oh, I'm having a bit of engine failure." And then I usually have to stop and get some water.

Where is a plane's sense of self? And how many parts can you change out before it's just a completely new plane?

It's like humans. You can go in and you can have a kidney removed, you can now have heart valves or pacemakers put in. It's kind of the same thing.

The Second World War is mentioned in one character's back-story. So is there a vehicular Hitler in the *Cars* universe, and if so what kind of vehicle was he?

That might be a spin-off. You're onto something. I think if enough people start blogging about this, then Disney would have to answer the call (laughs). I hadn't thought about that one. I'd thought of the other ones, but that's good. In my whole career, that will be the most obtuse, wild question.

A pornstache, a website and plenty of X-Men

Clever marketing?

Visit the site and learn more about how Trask Industries is protecting the world from mutants

X-Men: Days of Future Past doesn't open until May 23, 2014, but Fox isn't sitting around waiting for valuable promotion time to slip away.

The Trask Industries website, trask-industries.com,

explains how the work of Bolivar Trask, played by Peter Dinklage, with help from his amazing pornstache, will help hold back the mutants before they eat everyone's babies.

Through the use of robots — sorry, Sentinels — and some great charts full of statistics, Trask Industries will make you sleep better at night.

Because, as you well know: "For the past 50 years, Trask Industries has been

tracking, studying and systematically eradicating the X-gene worldwide. Due to the nature of its replication, the X-gene may have been present in well over 50 per cent of the world's population by this point, if not for the intervention of Trask Industries.

"As our environment has shifted, following the exponentially increasing trend of chemicalization and radiation of the human population, the X-gene still represents a ma-

jor threat to human progress. If propagated without limit, mutation may result in the eradication of the Homo sapiens species by 2030."

Not only will Bolivar Trask save humanity, he'll wear the hell out of those glasses while doing it.

X-Men: Days of Future Past will reportedly have Wolverine (Hugh Jackman) travelling back in time to the '60s to help deal with Mr. Trask and his great ideas.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Peter Dinklage plays Bolivar Trask. CONTRIBUTED

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Action/Comedy



2 Guns

Director. Baltasar Kormakur

Stars. Denzel Washington, Mark Wahlberg

2 Guns, a new action comedy, is what's called a refrigerator movie. It seems to add up while you're watching it, but later, when you're at home in front of the fridge looking for a snack and thinking back, you realize that it didn't make any sense. Not that it matters when you have Denzel Washington and Mark Wahlberg as a DEA agent and an undercover Naval Intelligence officer on the run after an investigation into a drug cartel goes wrong. They have charisma to burn and good chemistry.

RICHARD CROUSE

Documentary



Twenty Feet From Stardom

Director. Morgan Neville

Morgan Neville's entertaining documentary throws a spotlight on musicians who usually stay in the shadows: it's an ode to the unique art of backup singing. Interviews with pioneers like Merry Clayton and Darlene Love set the scene in the mid-60s, when harmonizing girl groups were in vogue; from there, the film traces the evolution of supporting vocals through the rock and soul movements of the '70s and its disappearance in the present day. There are some big stars on hand (Bruce Springsteen, Sting, Mick Jagger) but Neville ensures the focus remains on his unsung heroes. ADAM NAYMAN

Canyons director says film moved past the Lindsay Lohan horror show

New movie. The film that looked like it might never get made avoided all the traditional trappings

For a long time, it looked like director Paul Schrader was digging himself into a deep, deep ditch while making *The Canyons*.

After all, a widely read, schadenfreude-thick New York Times story earlier this year portrayed a troubled film production held hostage by the persistently erratic behaviour of star Lindsay Lohan. The film seemed to feature every necessary element of a roadside disaster ripe for rubbernecking: a squabbling production team headlined by discontent screenwriter Bret Easton Ellis; a practically mutinous, oft-unpaid crew; and a 67-year-old director hanging precariously by a thread as robust as dental floss.

It's therefore surprising when, reached seven months



Actor Lindsay Lohan as Tara is shown in a scene from the film *The Canyons*. CONTRIBUTED/THE CANADIAN PRESS

after that piece was published, Schrader seems so positive about his supposed bomb-to-be.

The boundary-testing screenwriter of *Taxi Driver* and *Raging Bull* and director of *American Gigolo* says the momentum has shifted in favour of his micro-budget erotic thriller.

The Canyons has struck a distribution deal with IFC Films, found entry into the upcoming Venice International Film Festival and merited a splashy premiere at New York's Lincoln Theater.

As far as Schrader is concerned, everything is going according to plan.

"The first storyline is Bret and Paul make the movie. The second is the Lindsay Lohan horror show. And the third story behind the film is: 'Hey, it's pretty good after all,'" the two-time Golden Globe nominee said in a recent telephone interview.

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Joe Neumaier, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

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ENTERTAINMENT ONE eone

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., AUG. 2 TO THURS., AUG. 8. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Bayers Lake 190 Chain Lake Dr.

2 Guns (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:50-3:30-6:55-10
Chennai Express (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Thu 12-3:05-6:15-9:30
The Conjuring (14) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-4:05-7:25-10:05
Despicable Me 2 (G) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 3:10-10 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:10-6:20-10
Despicable Me 2 3D (G) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Fri-Tue 12:25-7:10 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Wed-Thu 12:25
Grown Ups 2 (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 1:15-3:50-6:40-9:20
The Heat (14) Digital, Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 12:30-4:10-7:15-10:10
Iron Man 3 (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 3:25-9:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1-4-7:30
Iron Man 3 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:05-7
The Lone Ranger (PG) Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 3:05-9:10
Man of Steel (PG) Digital, Dolby Stereo Fri-Wed 12
Monsters University (G) Digital, Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:10-6:20
Pacific Rim (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 3:05-6:15-9:35
Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 4:10-10:10
Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:10-7:10
Planes (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 9:40
Planes 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 9:40
R.I.P.D. (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:55-7:35
Red 2 (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 1:20-4:15-7:05-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:20-4:15
The Smurfs 2 (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:20-3:40-6:25-9
The Smurfs 2 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-3:20-7-9:30
The To Do List (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:35-3:50-6:50-9:15
Turbo (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:35-6:50
Turbo 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 4-9:55



The To Do List. HANDOUT

We're the Millers (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:20-10:15
The Wolverine (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:05-3-6:10-9:15
The Wolverine 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:15-3:15-6:35-9:40
World War Z (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 4:20-9:55

Imax 190 Chain Lake Dr.

Elysium: The IMAX Experience (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 10:15
Pacific Rim: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:45-3:45-6:45

Oxford Theatre 6408 Quinpool Rd.

The Way Way Back (STC) Fri 6:30-9 Sat-Mon 3:45-6:30-9 Tue-Thu 6:30-9

Park Lane 5657 Spring Garden Rd.

2 Guns (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-3:55-7-9:50
20 Feet From Stardom (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:10-9:55
Andre Rieu Live in Maastricht 2013 (STC) Stadium Seating Wed 7
The Conjuring (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:20-4:05-6:50-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:25-4:05-6:50-9:20
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Lower Sackville 760 Sackville Dr.

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Dartmouth Crossing 145 Shubie Dr.

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Turbo (G) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:25-6:40
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Turbo 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 3:25-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:25
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Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters (STC) Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3-9:45
Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters 3D (STC) Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 7:15
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The Wolverine 3D (STC) No Passes Fri 6:20 No Passes Sat-Sun 2:40-6:20 Mon 6:20 Tue 2:40-6:20 Wed-Thu 6:20

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As Breaking Bad wraps, star reflects on 'greatest character of my career'

Breaking Bad. Cast, creator gather to talk final eight episodes and great series moments

MEREDITH ENGEL

Metro World News in New York City

As we prepare to say goodbye to Breaking Bad, the cast and creator Vince Gilligan gathered in New York on Tuesday for a TimesTalk panel discussion with New York Times reporter Dave Itzkoff.

The event, which was livestreamed on the Times' website, featured Bryan Cranston, Anna Gunn, Aaron Paul, Dean Norris, Betsy Brandt, RJ Mitte and Bob Odenkirk, in addition to Gilligan. It covered everything from the emergence of the characters to the last days of Walter White et al.

As the series winds down, with the first of eight final episodes airing Aug. 11 on AMC, Gilligan told audiences that ending now was the right decision.

"Every story has its beginning, middle and end," he said. "This (show) was not designed to go on forever. It needed to end."

The panellists were tight-

lipped on the final eight episodes, only saying that the third-from-last episode "is gonna knock your f---ing socks off," as Gilligan told it. They did, however, share insight into their characters with audience members and reveal behind-the-scenes tidbits about some of the series' most popular moments.

Cranston, who has won three consecutive Emmys for his role as Walter White (and is nominated for a fourth this year), told audience members that he wanted to "lift my leg up and spray (Gilligan) with my scent" when he read the pilot because he was so interested in getting the role. He had appeared on episodes of The X-Files that Gilligan had written as a similar character — a villain that somehow audience members sympathized with. Playing that role, Gilligan said, convinced executives that Cranston was fit to be Walter White.

Cranston called the role "the greatest character of my career," saying that he doesn't think he'll have the chance to become a character "so rich, deep, varied" again. "The spectrum of emotions that Walter White can justifiably play are uncanny," he said. "It's a playground for an actor and I'm so grateful for it."

Gunn, who plays Walt's long-suffering wife Skyler, offered a look into the mind of her character. She noted the challenge Gilligan faced in writing a "very, very smart woman" who at the same time was unaware of her husband's shady

practices for quite awhile.

"The quality that she shares with Walt that makes it so interesting is her intellect is, I think as sharp as his, and it's also her downfall as a human being," Gunn said. "She thinks that that intellect can

fix everything. She thinks she can control this uncontrollable situation. ... And yet everything she does actually makes things worse and gets her in deeper, and finally she realizes that she's actually backed so far into a corner that she has nowhere

to move.

"She really does become a prisoner in her own home, and the feeling I have is that the only thing playing over and over and over in her mind was, 'How do I get my kids to safety? How do I keep my kids safe?'"



Actors Bryan Cranston and Aaron Paul speak onstage during the Breaking Bad panel discussion. GETTY IMAGES

Apps

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Justin Bieber

Bieber won't see hit-and-run charges

Finally, some good legal news for Justin Bieber.

The Los Angeles district attorney's office has decided not to file hit-and-run charges against the singer in connection to an alleged run-in with a photographer last month, stating that there is no way to prove Bieber fled the scene intentionally, according to E! News.

"The Ferrari's engine is loud. The impact was minor and, given the chaotic scene and stress of the situation, it is likely that Bieber did not know he had hit (the photographer)," a spokesperson for the department says.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Remember that episode when Stephanie Tanner did meth? Well, it's a two-parter

THE WORD

Alexandra Cavallo
scene@metronews.ca



How rude! That's probably what Jodi Sweetin (a.k.a. Stephanie Tanner) is saying to all the nosy journos going around writing that she's in rehab again. If you didn't know, former child stars try to use their characters' key catchphrases as often as possible — it helps people

to remember that they were once pretty famous and that the mess they've since made of their adult lives is whatever.

Jokes aside, the story of Sweetin's life post-Full House actually is a sad one. While the Olsen twins went on to rule the world from behind hundreds of layers

of draped clothing and giant Starbucks cups, and Candace Cameron went on to find God, Sweetin (formerly the most adorable cast member of Full House and that includes Uncle Jesse) went on to become a meth addict and a three-time divorcée. But she cleaned up her act, admirably, and seemed to be on the right track, working as a counselor at a rehab facility.

Which is why it really is pretty rude that she's now battling rumours (she's claiming they are 100 per cent unfounded) that she, herself, is back on meth and back in rehab. Give the girl a break, you guys — the only cast member who fared worse after Full House called it quits is Uncle Joey. That guy was the worst.



Harry Styles. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

You and me baby ain't nothing but mammals ... so answer the question

Harry Styles reveals some startling details about his sexual history in a candid interview with the British edition of GQ magazine, buckling under the interviewer's questions about how many people the One Direction star has slept with.

"It's definitely less than 100," Styles offers. "I'm not doing this! You're cornering me!"

But he finally gives in, offering these details.

"Two people. I've only ever had sex with two people. That's my answer. Read from it what you will."

And if that's not enough candor for one day, Styles addresses rumours that he's bisexual.

"Bisexual? Me? I don't think so," he says. "I'm pretty sure I'm not."

Rehab centre recommends therapy for Lohan

Lindsay Lohan may have finished her 90-day stay in rehab, but her recent hosts don't think she's quite done yet.

The board of the Cliffside Malibu Treatment Center have written a letter to the judge overseeing Lohan's case stating that she requires court-ordered therapy as well, according to TMZ.

"We feel that it is critical that Ms. Lohan have court-

ordered therapy, specifically three 50-minute sessions a week for the next 18 months," the letter reads.

"Our entire clinical team is in unanimous agreement that if these sessions are not required by the court and attendance not verified once a month to ensure accountability, it is a setup for almost certain failure."

Lohan was released earlier this week.



Lindsay Lohan

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Liquid Assets

Modern port revolution



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Peter Rockwell
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When I mentioned port last week, I got to thinking how the boozy wonder has been pigeon-holed as a cold weather, after dinner bevy. While the majority of port styles are just too heavy for summer, there are two versions that meet the heat head-on.

White port is produced by most houses. Made to be chilled, it runs the flavour profiles of dry to sweet. The sweeter versions are the base of a popular summer mixer in Portugal's region of Porto.

Trouble is, port being white is so foreign to Canadians that you'll have trouble finding one at your local liquor store.

Croft has been fortifying juice since 1588. You'd think that would make it one of the stodgiest, old school wine makers in Portugal. Nope. It's led the modern port revolution: inject some fun and versatility into the category.

The rosé-esque Croft Pink Port (\$16.55 - \$19.99) is more at home in an ice bucket than at a snooty men's club. Layered with berry goodness, it's the foundation of more than a dozen refreshing cocktails that can all be found at croftpink.com.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.



This Pavlova serves six to eight people. ©ROBERT WIGINGTON

It's more than maple syrup and back bacon

Food Day Canada. Support local farmers this long weekend

It's been a decade since food crusader Anita Stewart encouraged Canadians to support farmers in the wake of the mad cow crisis threatening their livelihood by launching the World's Longest Barbecue.

Stewart's event has morphed into Food Day Canada, a day in which chefs and home cooks across the country can applaud Canada's bounty.

Not only are people encouraged to create their own spread from produce purchased at farmers markets, but they are also able to dine at any of the about 275 restaurants from across the country that are par-

ticipating this Saturday with menus featuring uniquely Canadian ingredients.

Stewart hopes people will post their menus and describe their plans at fooddaycanada.ca. There are plenty of recipes there too for inspiration.

An interactive map includes the locations of farmers markets and Food Day restaurants across the country "so it should be a guide of how to eat Canadian," she explains. The idea is "you can go and buy your good stuff here and here are the restaurants where you too can go and eat."

Here, Stewart shares her recipe for Pavlova, which features fresh local fruit.

1. Lightly butter baking sheet and line with parchment. Beat egg whites till stiff enough to

hold soft peaks. Slowly beat in the sugar, few spoonfuls at a time. This will take 2 to 3 minutes. The resulting meringue will be shiny and soft. Sift the cornstarch over it and lightly fold it in with the vinegar.

2. Drop meringue onto centre of the prepared pan. With a spatula spread it to an 8-inch (20 cm) circle, smoothing the top and the sides. Bake in a preheated 250 F (120 C) oven for 1 hour and 20 minutes. Remove from the oven and allow to cool on the pan. Store in an airtight container or use immediately.

3. To fill, whip the cream with the sugar until stiff. Invert the Pavlova onto a serving dish. The smooth bottom becomes the top of the dessert. Spoon

Ingredients

- 4 egg whites, at room temperature
- 1 cup (250 ml) superfine sugar
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) cornstarch
- 2 tsps (10 ml) white vinegar
- Filling**
- 1 cup (250 ml) heavy cream 35%
- 2 tsps (10 ml) superfine sugar
- Fresh fruit, as needed
- Bergamot blossoms as garnish (optional)

the whipped cream over the entire surface. Arrange the fresh fruit on top. Serve immediately. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/RECIPE ADAPTED FROM ANITA STEWART'S CANADA: THE FOOD, THE RECIPES, THE STORIES (HARPER COLLINS CANADA)**

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3 TIE

Breaking down the bubbly barriers

Champagne. It's not just for special occasions anymore

T. MICHELLE
MURPHY

Metro World News in New York City

Sure, we're used to popping corks at times of celebration, such as weddings or New Year's Eve. We might even open a bottle of bubbly for some sparkling mimosas to mark the start of our long-awaited weekend.

But Elise Losfelt, one of only 10 specially trained winemakers for Moët & Chandon, explains why Champagne is meant to be a part of our everyday lives — and how to incorporate it into this summer's favorite mealtime staples.

The first way to break down barriers with Champagne is to familiarize with non-vintages, like a white or rosé. With these, all you need to do is get to know one house's flavour profile. Once you've discovered what you like, it's easy to pair that taste with your favourite foods.

For beginners, a non-vintage is “easy to understand and easy to drink,” Losfelt says.

An underrated flavour is rosé, though it's an ideal gateway into the Champagne world. And it's surprisingly simple to pair with summer standards, such as grilled and spicy foods. "Burgers, fries and tacos," Lofselt confesses, when asked about ideal pairings for rosé. "It has more power to answer to food; you can dare to play with it."

Despite Champagne's complex tasting notes, salt is one basic flavour that it doesn't naturally re-create. By adding it back to the mix, even with a commonplace salty food pairing, like potatoes, Lofselt says, "You're just enhancing all the flavours of Champagne."

When taking a bottle to your next summer cookout, consider serving non-vintage Champagne alongside a rich barbecue sauce — just as long as it's not too sweet. This sparkling wine has low sugar content, with about nine grams of sugar per litre, so you don't want to make its subtle flavour compete with added sweetness

Champagne pillars

You don't have to be a wine snob to talk about what you like in fine Champagne. The three pillars to touch upon when discussing its characteristics are the intensity of the aroma, the colour and the structure. Losfelt says to look for:

- Bright fruitiness
- Acidic palate
- Maturity

in your food. On that note: Skip the cake and strawberries, since choosing these sweet and acidic pairings is a novice mistake.

Serve a pink sparkling wine with your everyday picnic fare for an unexpected treat "if you want to shake your guests and show them what rosé is capable of." Plus, it's a good alternative to calorie-laden cocktails for guests who want more of a guilt-free indulgence.

Once you have an idea of what you like in Champagne,

you can upgrade to vintage. A vintage offers “astronomical power and aging potential,” says Losfelt. With vintages, you’re looking for a specific year that you like. Each year is a unique taste that’s only replicated under the banner of that one annual time stamp: once you’ve narrowed down your palate’s preferences, it’s always easy to buy because the year is featured prominently on vintage Champagne bottles — even above the wine type, brand name or any other decorative feature on the label.

last but not the least, the true Champagne connoisseur should eventually consider upgrading to an old vintage. At this stage, knowing exactly what you like "makes you understand the world of Champagne, and you will never go away," Losfelt promises.

Once you've conquered your own preferences with non-vintage, vintage and old vintage Champagnes, you'll be able to expertly play with your own food pairings — whether it's a special event or just firing up the grill with pals on a warm summer night.



It may surprise you to learn that Champagne can go well with burgers. ISTOCK

MACDONALD BRIDGE CLOSURES FOR NATAL DAY WEEKEND

Saturday, August 3, 2013

Halifax Harbour Bridges Natal Day Fireworks

The Macdonald Bridge sidewalk will **close at 3 p.m.** and a shuttle service for pedestrians will be provided. The Macdonald Bridge, including the bike lane, will **close to all traffic at 7:30 p.m.** and reopen following the clean up of the fireworks. A shuttle service will be offered to pedestrians and cyclists.

Sunday, August 4, 2013

The Macdonald Bridge will be **closed from 8:30 a.m. to noon** to host the 19th annual *MACPASS* Miles road race. The sidewalk and bike lane will remain open.

Monday, August 5, 2013

The Macdonald Bridge will be **closed from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.**
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CFL

Als decide Hawkins just can't hack it

The Dan Hawkins era lasted only five games in Montreal.

The Alouettes, who have struggled to a 2-3 record to start the season, announced Thursday that Hawkins has been fired.

Jim Popp will step in as head coach for the third time in his 18 years as general manager of the club.

The firing came during a bye week in the Alouettes' schedule. The team's next game is Aug. 8 against the Toronto Argonauts.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Red Sox crush Mariners' hopes in bottom of 9th

Daniel Nava's long single to centre-field capped a six-run rally in the bottom of the ninth inning as the Boston Red Sox came back to beat the Mariners 8-7 on Thursday night and sweep Seattle in the three-game series.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL



"You immediately jump to the conclusion that he stiffed

a waiter or waitress. That's the part that bothers me."

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees says he's amazed his \$3 tip on a \$74 takeout order last month has become a talking point on national television and the Internet.

First time's a charm for Simpson in Ohio

Golf. With Tiger lurking, caddie gives opening-round leader guidance

So much for course knowledge.

Webb Simpson, playing his first competitive round at Firestone Country Club, shot a 6-under 64 on Thursday to take a one-stroke lead at the Bridgestone Invitational in Akron, Ohio.

It all came down to trust.

"Well, I knew it all through my caddie (Paul Tesori), who's been here so many years," Simpson said. "I just kind of had to listen to him."

Tesori has caddied for years on tour, for Vijay Singh and Jerry Kelly, in addition to being a pro himself.

"It's hard for us players to listen to our caddies, but he basically showed me where to go yesterday and told me where to hit it, where the lines were, what clubs to hit," said Simpson, the 2012 U.S. Open champion. "I didn't feel like it

was my first time because he has so much experience here."

Seven-time Bridgestone winner Tiger Woods did not have to rely so much on the man on his bag, Joe LaCava, while shooting a 66. Woods has 11 top-10 finishes in his 13 starts at the course, so he clearly knows where to go.

Still, he needed his counsel from time to time.

"I hit a lot of good shots. I had a really good feel for the distance today, and Joey and I really read the wind right today," Woods said after his best opening round at the course since another 66 spurred him to a one-shot victory in 2005. "We changed a lot of shots out there, and we both had a really good handle on what we were doing feel-wise with the wind."

Henrik Stenson was alone in second with a 65. Defending champion Keegan Bradley, Ryan Moore and Chris Wood, another first-time entrant, matched Woods at 66.

Simpson had six birdies in an eight-hole span.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Webb Simpson tips his cap after a birdie on the sixth hole at the Bridgestone Invitational on Thursday in Akron, Ohio. Simpson finished the opening round atop the leaderboard with a 6-under 64. GREGORY SHAMUS/GETTY IMAGES

Canada Games. Excitement takes hold of Sherbrooke

Each bus that rolled onto Bishop's University's campus brought another wave of cheers.

A group of face-painted volunteers — dubbed the Fan Club — waved signs, shouted and clapped as every bus, van and car filled with athletes turned on to the bucolic campus' main road for the first day of the Canada Summer

Games.

"I'm so excited, this is going to be a great experience," said 16-year-old Ashley Nicole Kambeitz on Thursday, shortly after stepping off Team Saskatchewan's bus.

"I've never been to the Canada Summer Games, but I've been to the Western Canada Games," added the soccer goalkeeper from Saskatoon.

Kambeitz is far from alone.

There are 4,200 athletes from across Canada competing in 20 different sports over 16 days at the Games, scattered across 20 venues in Sherbrooke, Que., and its surrounding area.

"This is my third Canada Games, actually. I went to the one in '05 in Regina and '09 in Prince Edward Island," said

para-athlete Cam MacDonald, a multi-discipline swimmer from Winnipeg. "It's always a fun experience and it's always a unique experience."

Bishop's and the Université de Sherbrooke are hosting most of the events, with nearby lakes, parks, stadiums and facilities providing the other venues.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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4 SPORTS

Playoffs press MLB to hand out bans



Rodriguez could face a lifetime ban.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Biogenesis scandal.

Monday reportedly the deadline for players to accept suspensions

Looming playoffs could force an end to negotiations in baseball's latest drug scandal as pressure builds to impose penalties so stars can still

make the post-season.

Monday appears to be the deadline for Alex Rodriguez and 13 others to accept suspensions for their ties to the Biogenesis of America anti-aging clinic. While A-Rod is expected to get a lengthy ban, a penalty starting that day would allow Texas all-star Nelson Cruz to return for October.

Major League Baseball

is prepared to issue two announcements no later than Monday, a person familiar with the process told The Associated Press on Thursday. One would list players who accept suspensions; the other would name those disciplined without deals, but who could challenge penalties before an arbitrator.

The person spoke on con-

dition of anonymity because no statements were authorized.

Most players face 50-game suspensions for their links to the now-closed Florida clinic, which has been accused of distributing banned performance-enhancing drugs. But baseball is threatening to ban Rodriguez for life unless he agrees to a long ban, perhaps around 200 games.

Rodriguez appeared ready to talk Thursday as he was leaving the team's minor-league complex in Tampa, Fla. However, when he saw a second group with TV cameras approaching, he said, "I'll talk to you guys, but no cameras."

He waited a moment, then left without saying another word.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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A Leaf less ordinary

Dave Bolland parades the Stanley Cup through Toronto's west end on Thursday afternoon. Fans turned out by the thousands to see the new Maple Leafs forward show off the trophy he won with the Chicago Blackhawks in June. Bolland scored the cup-clinching goal in Game 6 against the Boston Bruins. RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cycling

Give Armstrong his titles back, former rider Ullrich says

Lance Armstrong should have his seven Tour de France wins reinstated due to the prevalence of doping at the time, according to former cyclist Jan Ullrich.

"I would give Armstrong the Tour victories back. ... That's how it was back then," Ullrich told the current edition of Sport Bild magazine.

"It doesn't help anyone to draw a line through the winners' list."

Ullrich, who won the Tour in 1997, finished second to Armstrong on three occasions (2000, 2001 and 2003) but the German declined to stake a claim for his former rival's stripped titles.

"I only want victories that I've experienced on the bike," he said.

Armstrong acknowledged in January that he doped for all seven of his Tour wins from 1999 to 2005. He was subsequently stripped of the titles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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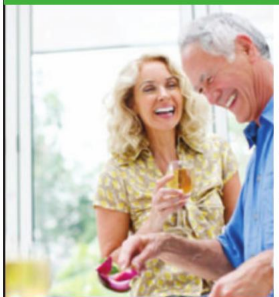
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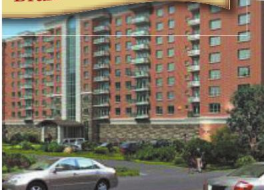


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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

Try to take things at a more reasonable pace. The more you relax and let life come to you, the more you will enjoy the day and the more likely it is love, in some form, will come your way.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

You have more in common with someone than you realize and what happens over the next 24 hours will prove it. Make an effort to get to know them and you will soon be firm friends — and maybe more.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

What is right for you may not be right for someone else, so don't try to stop a loved one doing something you don't agree with. It takes all kinds to make a world — that's what makes it so interesting.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

What friends and lovers are looking for from you is understanding. Can you give it to them? Open your ears and listen to their problems — then open your heart and do something about them.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Stand back from what you are doing and make sure you have not strayed away from your original intentions. A few minor adjustments now makes it less likely you will have to make major adjustments later on.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Don't try too hard today. The planets suggest that the less you put in, the more you will get out. Why struggle when you don't have to?

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

With Venus, your ruler, moving through the most sensitive area of your chart, you may not be able to express yourself as easily as usual but that does not mean you love less. Make sure loved ones know that.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Today's Venus-Mars link will endow you with so much passion you may have a hard time deciding how to put it all to good use. Do whatever takes your fancy. Just act.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Focus on what gives you pleasure today rather than on what you think others expect. If you get the chance to mix business and pleasure, that's great but don't think you have to put money and career first.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

You can't put a foot wrong at the moment and today's Venus-Mars link will smooth your path more. Relationships are under great influences. Let the object of your affection know how in love you are.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

There is nothing you can't do, nothing that cannot be made to work. The only danger is that with so many options available you may spend more time thinking than acting. Choose a goal, then go for it.

Pisces

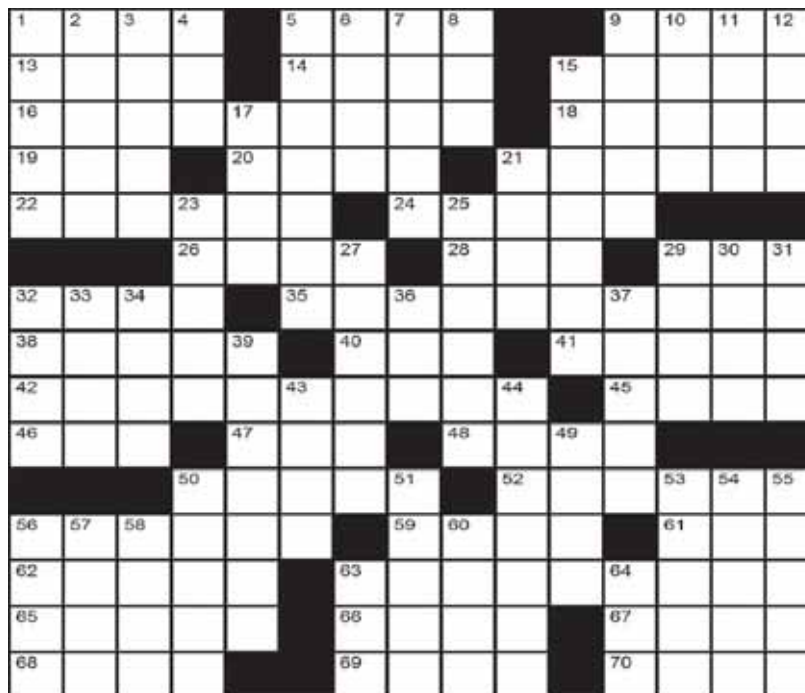
Feb. 20 - March 20

You're on the right wavelength with partners and loved ones at the moment and that means all things are possible — if you work together. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

1. Luba hit: "Let ___"
5. Trim
9. Tepid
13. Fertilizer ingredient
14. Formally give up
15. Comedian Mr. Rock
16. Altona, MB: "The ___ Capital of Canada"
18. Originating in Toronto, it's Canada's longest street
19. "Ballad" suffix
20. Speck
21. "Romantic Traffic" band from Burlington, ON
22. Didn't have a nightmare
24. Type of cliff
26. Abound
28. "Get movin'!"
29. Except...
32. Soup's holder
35. Mountain community in British Columbia
38. Leading
40. Clamour
41. Sandals and sneakers
42. New Westminster, BC is home to the world's largest what?: 2 wds.
45. Research facil.
46. Landscaper's roll
47. Actress Gretchen



48. Partners of 'hoos!'
50. "Glee" actress Ms. Riley
52. TV series, "The ___"
56. Does Brazilian-style dancing
59. Actor, Idris ___
61. Santa __, California
62. Cupcake compon-

- ent
63. Villain
65. Deuce-ace
66. Rapunzel's pride
67. Highest point
68. Clairvoyant
69. ___daisy!
70. What-fors?

Down

1. Gotye song: "Somebody That ___

- to Know"
2. More believable
3. Category
4. Lummo
5. Justin Bieber's manager, ___ Braun
6. Grown-up eft
7. Notions
8. For every
9. Salt-n-Pepa hit
10. Game show Howie Mandel hosted,

- "Deal ___ Deal"
11. Leo, for one
12. Sugar suffixes
15. AB-SK's ___ Hills Interprovincial Park
17. Citrus fruit
21. "___ on Sailor" by The Beach Boys
23. Bodybuilding legend Charles
25. Pre-Biden VP
27. Interfere

29. Benefit
30. Li'l pluckees
31. Try for a screen role
32. Frightening flappers
33. Cincinnati's state
34. Make one's way
36. Fancy 7
37. *NSync ballad, "___ Promise You"
39. Beau ___ (Quebec band part of Canada Post's rock stamps collection)
43. High-arc tennis shots
44. Will Ferrell comedy, "A Night at the ___" (1998)
49. "It's the end ___ era.": 2 wds.
50. Classic comic strip, Li'l ___
51. Summary
53. Northwest Territories' official tree, Tamarack ___
54. Foe
55. Bargains
56. Takes a chair
57. Hurt
58. Soft muddy spot
60. Wife on FOX cartoon "Family Guy"
63. Moo ___ pork (Takeout dish)
64. Stealing bird

Yesterday's Crossword

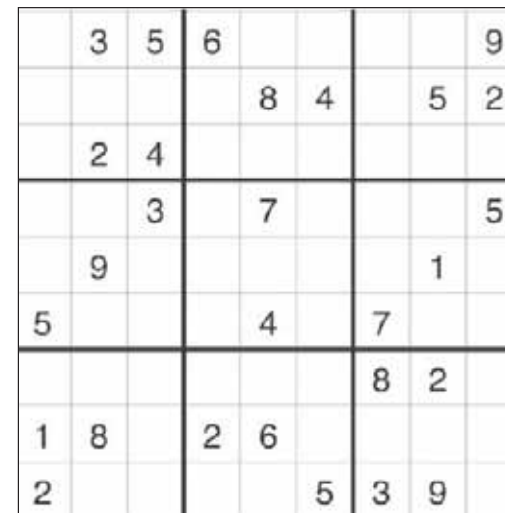


Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



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Variable

Saturday

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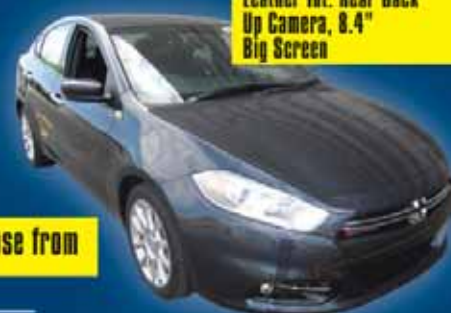


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